

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 18, and 23 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 – 29 are pending in this Application. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 was objected to because the acronym “RSS” was not spelled out. Claim 6 has been amended to spell out “RSS” as “Rich Site Summary or RDF Summary”, as used in the Applicants’ specification at [00025].

Rejection of Claim(s) 1-4, 7-11, 13-14, 16-19, 21-26, and 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The above recited claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Project 2000 as evidenced by Pyron et al., Using Microsoft Project 2000 (2000; MS Project). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants’ invention as now set forth in exemplary claim 1 includes a method for tracking the status of a workflow. The method includes the steps of generating a weblog to track an instance of the workflow, the workflow having a plurality of workflow steps, each step performed by at least one member, each of the members having at least one workflow role; assigning the at least one member to the weblog; and automatically posting an entry in the weblog to indicate that a workflow action has occurred. See for example Applicants’ specification at [00016] “As workflow actions occur, the weblog system automatically posts

entries in the weblog. In effect, the workflow weblog acts as a logging mechanism for the workflow where messages and updates are automatically generated and posted.”

In contrast, MS Project discloses a project management system wherein tasks can be assigned and project members can manually post status updates. There does not appear to be any indication in MS Project that a workflow action has been completed. A project member can indicate that a workflow action has been completed, but he must do so manually, by manually sending a status update, or responding manually to a request for a status update. (See MS Project Fig. 15.15 – 15.18). Thus, MS Project fails to teach or suggest the Applicants’ claimed step of “automatically posting an entry in the weblog to indicate that a workflow action has occurred”. Therefore, MS Project cannot anticipate the Applicants’ claimed invention.

The Applicants therefore respectfully assert that Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2 – 4 and 7 – 9 are in condition for allowance. Independent Claims 10, 13, 18, and 23 contain limitations similar to that of Claim 1; therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 10 – 11, 13 – 14, 16- 19, 21 – 26, and 28 – 29 are also in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claim(s) 5-6, 12, 15, 20, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The above recited claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MS Project and further in view of Official Notice. The Office Action notes that MS Project does not teach providing a feed to an aggregator, wherein the feed comprises an RSS feed. The Office Action takes Official Notice that “providing a feed to an aggregator, the aggregator receiving entries from a weblog wherein the feed comprises provided an RSS feed from a plurality of weblogs for syndication is old and very well known”. The Applicants assert that no matter how well known aggregators providing RSS feeds may be, their use in the claimed

application is novel. The dependent claims 5-6, 12, 15, 20, and 27 are allowable by virtue of the fact that their respective independent claims 1, 10, 13, 18, and 23 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant(s) submit(s) that the application is in condition for allowance and request early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 12-2158.

Respectfully submitted,

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